

### **REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed July 13, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 5, 8 – 11 and 14 – 24 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have added claims 21 – 24, have amended claims 1, 5, 11, and 14 – 16, and have canceled claims 6, 7, 12 and 13 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 6, 7, 12 and 13 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

### **Indication of Allowable Subject Matter**

The Office Action indicates that claims 7 and 13 – 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As set forth above, Applicants have amended claim 5 to include features previously recited in claim 7, and have amended claim 11 to recite features previously recited in claim 13. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 5 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Since claims 8 – 10 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 5, and claims 14 – 20 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 11, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

## Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 2, 4 – 6, 8, 11 – 12 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Yatabe*. The Office Action also indicates that claims 5, 8, 10 – 11, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Orisaka*. As set forth above, Applicants have canceled claims 6, 7 and 12, and respectfully assert that the rejections as to these claims have been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

In this regard, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite:

1. A method for translating voltage levels of digital signals, said method comprising:

providing a first digital signal operating between a first voltage and a second voltage, the first voltage corresponding to a logic 0 and the second voltage corresponding to a logic 1;

***providing the first digital signal as an input to a capacitive element, an output of the capacitive element being electrically connected in parallel to a first branch and a second branch, the first branch being electrically connected to a third voltage, the second branch being electrically connected to a fourth voltage; and***

causing the first and second voltages to interact with the first branch and the second branch such that a second digital signal is produced, the second digital signal operating between the third voltage and the fourth voltage;

***wherein the first branch comprises a first diode and a first RC circuit electrically connected in parallel, and the second branch comprises a second diode and a second RC circuit electrically connected in parallel.***

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Yatabe* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 1. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that *Yatabe* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2 and 4 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claims 5, 8, 10, 11, 18 and 20, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 11 as set forth above. In particular, Applicants have amended claim to include features previously recited in claim 7 (the allowability of which is set forth in the Office Action) and have amended claim 11 to recite features previously recited in claim 13 (the allowability of which also is set forth in the Office Action). Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 5 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Since claims 8 and 10 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 5, and claims 18 and 20 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 11, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance.

#### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Office Action indicates that claims 3, 9 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yatabe* and/or *Orisaka*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

In particular, with respect to claims 9 and 19, these claims are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claims 5 and 11, respectively. Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 5 and 11 are in condition for allowance for reasons indicated above, dependent claims 9 and 19 also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 3, that claim is a dependent claim that incorporates the features of claim 1. In this regard, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 1 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1 under the section entitled “Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claim 3 incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 3 also is in condition for allowance. Additionally, this claim recites other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

#### **Newly Added Claims**

In this response, Applicants have added new claims 21 – 24. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance and that no new matter has been added. In particular, claims 21 and 22 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, and claims 23 and 24 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 5. Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 21 – 24 are in condition for allowance for at least the reason that their respective independent claims are allowable.

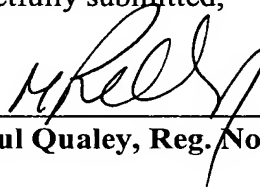
#### **Cited Art Made of Record**

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

### CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

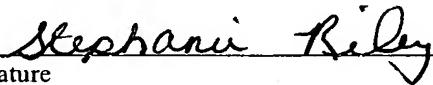


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